The MSC Monitor
Student Newspaper of Matanuska-Susitna College
Monday, August 31, 1998 Vol. V No. 6

# The Trouble with Tribbles?

*Note from the editor: This article was origanally intended for the May 1, 1998 issue of the Monitor; however, the issue was never put out, so here it is.*

*by Joe Pelletier*

I would like to commend the Art Club on an ingenious and effective art display. The migrating colored water bottles is really spurring the imagination of all who come into contact with them.

I have to admit, the display was origanally met with much skepticism and concern, with comments and demands such as: "are the bottles sealed? do you have labels saying 'Do Not Drink' for each area? colored water in bottles? come on!"

But the comments and demands were answered and the room use request went forward and the migration began. I was unimpressed with the display in the atrium; however, soon the bottles were down the hall, in window sills, upstairs, and in the parking lot! People would stop by the Director's Office to say "did you know a bottle of colored water is...", and then would ask, "what's it all about," exactly as the Art Club intended. Some of the staff would say "did you

*Continued on Page 3.*

## Humpty Dumpty fixed his own shell and in no time at all, he was feeling quite well.

*by Marcia McCrea.*

Johnny Teller did his time. His crime? Undiagnosed dyslexia.

Lou Tapen literally fell through the *crack.* He is a recovered addict, who at age 60, still doesn't read. He insists that all people want is love, understanding, and a sense of fulfillment.

Pat Tolden was beat up at West High School, 1980. She didn't fit in. Now, at 33, she's going to college, and home schooling her son who has already been repeatedly bullied at the public Kindergarten. Tolden learned she was dyslectic when she changed districts.

All three had failed, according to the standards of the public education system.

Without the "arms" they needed to fight their wars, Teller, Tapen and Tolden dealt with their obstacles, as best they could.

*Continued on page 3.*

**Welcome**

**to**

**Matanuska-Susitna College's**

**Fall 1998**

**Semester**

### *Dates To Remember This Semester*

| | |
|---|---|
| **August 31** | *Classes Start* |
| **September 4** | *100% Refund Deadline* |
| **September 14** | *Late Registration Deadline* |
| **September 7 & 8** | *Labor Day Holiday* |
| **September 15** | *50% Refund Deadline* |
| | *Add/Drop Deadline* |
| | *Audit-to-Credit Deadline* |
| **October 19** | *December Grad Application Deadline* |
| **November 3** | *Directed/Independent Study Deadline* |
| **November 24** | *Withdrawal Deadline* |
| | *Credit-to-Audit Deadline* |
| **November 25-29** | *Thanksgiving Break* |
| | *Total Withdrawal Deadline* |

The next issue of the

**MSC Monitor**

will be distributed on

**September 8, 1998.**

All submissions should be received no later than

**September 6, 1998.**

if you submit on article, please submit a hard copy on paper with desired format and a soft copy on disk in text only format. Your disk will be returned as soon as the article is transferred to the hard drive.

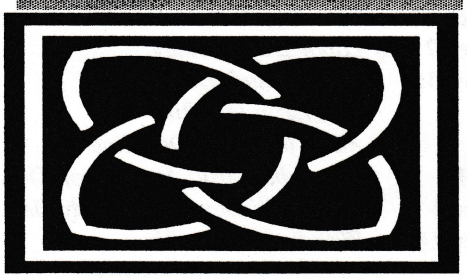
THANK YOU

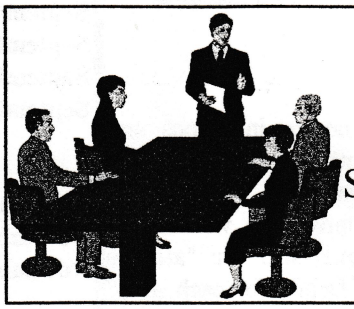
## From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the Fall 1998 semester at Matanuska-Susitna College. This year the paper should be a little bit better now that I live in Palmer, not Willow. This issue is just to let you know we still have a paper, and anyone interested in helping - well, please help❐

## To The Editor

Letters to the editor, opinions, complaints and suggestions are always welcome by the editor. Submissions can be placed in the Monitor drop box outside the office, mailed to the MSC Monitor, P.O. Box 2889, Palmer, AK 99645, or email to pskjs@uaa.alaska.edu





## Student Government

Senator Seats Available
See the Student Government Board in the Cafeteria for more details.

## Wanted

Students of MSC to Fill Positions on the

## MSC MONITOR

**Positions include:**
**Photographers, Guest Columnists, Cartoonists, Poets, and many more.**

**If you are interested or want more information contact Kurt Szumiesz at 745-7978 or email: pskjs@uaa.alaska.edu, or fill out an application located outside the Monitor office and return to the Blue Box outside the office.**

**MSC Monitor Staff**

**Editor:** *Kurt Szumiesz* **VA Corespondent:** *Rebecca Brown* **Guest Columnists:** *Joe Peleltier, Marcia McCrea*

*The Monitor welcomes guest columnists and letters to the editor. Submissions will be printed according to space available, and must include name & phone number for verification. These can be dropped off in the Monitor office, placed in the Monitor drop box outside the office, mailed to the MSC Monitor, P.O. Box 2889, Palmer, AK 99645, or email to pskjs@uaa.alaska.edu. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, grammar, spelling and libel.*

Continued from front page.

## Migrating bottles.

know one of the bottles was seen on the bridge?" or some other such place. Many do not know the bottles sat in on the last Advisory Counsel meeting held April 13th. Now I was impressed, something so simple in design and presentation causing so much interest. Way to go Art Club.

The display was origanally scheduled to run from March 30th to April 10th, it is well past the 10th, but the comments keep coming in. Several have said it reminds them of the Star Trek episode "The Trouble with Tribbles," which is rather impressive since that is the all time favorite episode. Others have wondered if the bottles would start showing up throughout the valley. Actually, I am beginning to wonder about them myself...the one in my window soon became two, and they remind there for two weeks, then moved to the hallway and split. One remains on my desk, the other I think I saw climbing a tree in the parking lot, or it may have been the grubby on sitting on the guardrail at the end of College Drive, I couldn't help but wonder if it was planning on hitchhiking to town!

The Art Club out did themselves in raising our awareness of familiar surroundings.

Again I commend them□

*It should also be noted that throughout the summer semester, I personally saw bottles as far as the Parks Highway just off Trunk Road, and if you look around the campus today, some still survive.*

Continued from front page.

## Dyslexia.

Their battle is with dyslexia, the impaired ability to comprehend the language process. Symptoms of dyslexia manifest when a student gets out of sync (timing) in one or more steps in reading, math, writing, the aural, and non-verbal language.

Often associated with a neurological disorder, the more common symptoms of dyslexia are reversed letters and numbers.

Effects from their symptoms still mingle in their shadows. The disability is dynamic and changes between minimal and severe, from one minute to the next, and one day to the next, according to Willard Clifton's publication: Learning Disabilities: an understanding and definition. At various times and in surprisingly adverse ways, dyslexia affects their ability to secure their basic needs of food, shelter, heat, electricity, telephone, clothing, car, gas, insurance, and education. This ripples into the lives of their dependents, families, and communities.

Teller doesn't have any teeth. He gums his pizza slowly. He has been in prison a lot, mostly due to drinking. The last time he was sentenced, he couldn't "walk the line." He had to prove in court that it wasn't because he was drunk that he couldn't walk a straight line, but that it was because he is dyslectic.

He has a repair truck and makes "vehicle calls" for people who can't pay the commercial rate. He works during the summer and parks his remodeled school bus at friends' through the Alaska winter. The law still bothers him, but no-one else does.

Working in "Bush" was the straw that broke Tapen's back; in three places. For medicinal purposes, he says he became an early adopter of the drugs, that were diffused at the time the pipeline was built. He is on disability and stays involved through ministry.

Tolden is still overcoming interference. "There is no 'one way' to learn," she exclaims "it makes me hotter than a match when children have to hide their ability to excel in the educational petri dish!"

There are some demographic characteristics which these three bring to the picture. Teller was premature. He weighed 3 pounds 3 ounces at birth. Tapen was one of eight children his Mother delivered before she was 26. Tolden, was a surviving triplet. Her mom, a military spouse, was prescribed Thalidomide for morning sickness, before the drug was approved in the U.S. in the 1960's.

**All One System**

Harold Hodgkin son's report All One System: Demographics of Education, Kindergarten through Graduate School, found that the group of students labeled by demographers as educationally retarded or difficult to teach, in 1985, numbered 700,000 of 3.3 million. He stated "this annual cohort of births (22%) entering the educational continuum was rapidly increasing."

Hodgkinson found that every day in America, 40 teen-age girls were giving birth to their third child. He wrote, "to be the third child, of a child, appears to be very much 'at risk' in terms of one's future." When Hodgkinson compared America's teen birth rates with those of other countries, he found the major difference was access to information. He reported the inability of American youth to be informed about contraception and abortion were similarly restricted.

Hodgkinson reported the vital aspect of this situation is that teen age mothers give birth to children who are premature.

Premature babies have low birth rates and low birth rates are predictors of major learning disabilities when the child gets to school. According to the report, low birth rates occur when the mother has a very poor diet when pregnant, and doesn't have a physical examination during pregnancy.

Hodgkinson found that American's are entering the era where youth are in short supply. And until 2020, when baby boomers bust (retire), there will be more people over the age of 65 than there are teenagers. He warned that "when large numbers are taking out and small numbers are putting in, the economics are clear."

He reported that in the 1950's, seventeen workers paid the benefits for each retiree, and that one of seven were not using their college education for their work. In 1992, three workers provided the funds for each retiree, one of those three was a minority, and one of four was not using their college education.

Continued on page 4.

*Continued from page 3.*

## Dyslexia.

In his book, "How to make use of a useless degree: finding your place in the postmodern society," Andrew Frothingham noted that 3% of people pick a major, find a job in their chosen field, and settle down.

He explained that people who found school difficult will have problems because the uncertain labor market will require people to retrain several times throughout their labor market lives.

Hodgkinson explained, "It is more evident than ever before, that when large numbers of children fail in school, and at work, the consequences will be severe."

Clifton, a counselor, who has dyslexic-like disabilities, explained the difficulties with reading, math, writing, and non-verbal language are the "symptoms" of the disability. He sees the need for the individual to make wise choices, the need for policy maker's to be informed, and he has hopes that technology will be utilized to improve the system.

Tolden knows that children cannot strive forward until they feel safe. It makes her furious when misbehaving children can't be punished in public, because a complete stranger can "turn-the-parent-into-the-state," for abuse. She is "home schooling" again, after a local teacher told her son that "he should listen to his teachers, and not to his parents." She knows from experience that for education to work, public school achievers have to have a family support system to back it up.

She knows that test scores don't tell the whole story. She was assaulted in a High School that professed to be a model school in the "*home of the standardized tests.*"

It was more like the crack that broke her mother's back; her assault was coincidentally followed with her mother having a stroke.

Gamble and Gamble's book, "How Communication Works," explained that communication spirals, regardless of the direction.

The spiral Tolden experienced was that the school chose not to do anything about the assault, her mother's health failed, and Tolden quit school to handle the responsibilities of parenting her siblings, while her Mother recovered her speech and mobility. Tolden became a "school-leaver," one who didn't finish high school.

Hodgkin son's 1985 report indicated that children benefit by having family responsibilities and that latch key children, those home alone, benefit greatly by having responsibility.

> ***"The choices that an individual makes and the choices that are made by others, for people with disabilities, will determine how disabled that person is by their disability."***
> *W. Clifton*

In 1958, Bertrand Russell, in his publication "Aims and Exercises of Speech," asked, "what are we educating for?"

Barnard advocated educating for the virtues of vitality, courage, sensitiveness, and intelligence. He described vitality as health; courage as control over irrational fear; sensitiveness, the quality of expressing the correct emotion for the right thing; and intelligence, based on curiosity arising from a genuine love of knowledge.

Superintendent Bill Gosner, explained American schools have educated for the *Bible,* the industrial revolution, the space race and now are educating for computers and the down-sized, service oriented labor market.

Teller is sure the system will work when everyone does their part.

Tapen knows that all people really need is love, understanding, and a sense of fulfillment.

Tolden knows educators should be evaluating the emotional side of education as well as the academic side. She believes each child is a discovery and education should let each child unfold and discover their uniqueness.

For the dyslexic person to get back in sync with language processes, and normal automatic reading, Clifton speaks from experience when he emphasizes that people with disabilities must compensate through wise choices.

In an effort to get back in sync with positive living, a quick review of this article shows communication spiraled from inefficient education, to prison, crack, and divorce, just through low birth rates. One of the things it produced is an increased population of educationally difficult to teach. All this, and more, based on each person's adeptness, with letters and numbers.

There is more to reading, writing, and arithmetic, then the fine print, sign here, and taxes.

The "why should we care" spiral includes an increasingly older population and an uncertain labor market. It is clear that education, and the labor market, need to deliver solutions.

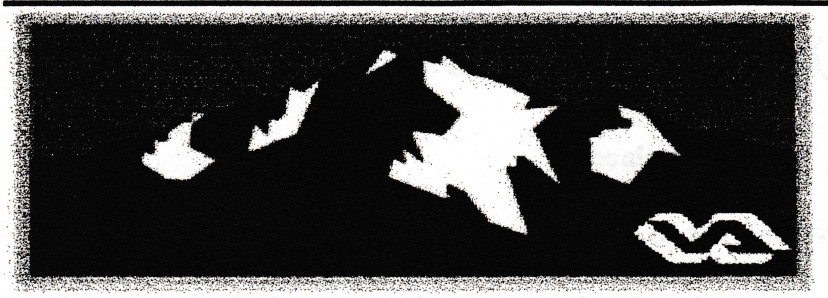
***There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.***

"Love, understanding and a sense of fulfillment," Tapen emphasized.

*Continued on page 5.*

Your Picture Here

Have you done something extraordinary in the community; have you been promoted to a spotlight position; are you a 4.0 student; have you survived an un-survivable accident; or do you just want to be noticed? If so, your picture and biography should appear in the MSC Spotlight. If you feel you should be in the spotlight email *pskjs@uaa.alaska.edu.* to set an interview□



## VA Facilities - Where to go for help.

VA has toll-free numbers for the convenience of veterans and dependants. To assure that accurate information and courteous responses are given to the public, VA supervisors occasionally monitor telephone calls. Toll-free telephone services include:

- Va Benefits 1-800-827-1000.
- Life Insurance 1-800-669-8477.
- Debt Management Center 1-800-827-0648
- Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) 1-800-829-4833.
- CHAMPVA 1-800-733-8387.
- Headstones and Markers 1-800-697-6947.
- National Mammography Helpline 1-888-492-7844.
- Persian Gulf Hotline 1-800-PGW-VETS.
- Persian Gulf TDD 1-800-829-4833.
- VAONLINE Bulletin Board Service - 'telnet://vaonline.va.gov' or via data line 1-800-US1-VETS up to 28.8KBPS at 8-N-1 modem setting.
- VA World Wide Web Home Page Server - 'http://www.va.gov'

### Alaska VA Facilities:

*Clinics:*

- Anchorage Outpatient Clinic and Regional Office 99508-2989
  2925 DeBarr Rd., 907-257-4700 or 1-800-827-1000.
- Fort Wainwright 99703
  Bassett Army Community Hospital, Rm. 262, 097-363-5122.

*Regional Office:*

- Anchorage 99508-2989
  2925 DeBarr Rd., 907-257-4700 or 1-800-827-1000.

*Benefits Office:*

- Juneau 99802
  709 W. 9th st., #263, 907-586-7472.

*Vet Centers:*

- Anchorage 99508
  4201 Tudor Centre Dr., Suite 115, 907-563-6966.
- Fairbanks 99701
  529 5th Ave., Suite 102, 907-456-4238.
- Kenai 99611
  445 Coral St., 907-283-5205.
- Wasilla 99654
  851 E. Westpoint Ave., Suite 109, 907-373-4318.

*National Cemeteries:*

- Fort Richardson 99505
  P.O. Box 5-498, Bldg. 997 Davis Highway, 907-384-7075.
- Sitka 99835
  P.O. Box 1065: for information, call Ft. Richardson, AK.

*Matanuska-Susitna College VA Student Services:*

- 907-745-9762.

*Continued from page 4.*

## Dyslexia.

Happiness comes from earning what we achieve, and success comes when we develop our natural talents, towards worthy goals.

During America's first 191 years, from 1754 to 1945, forty-four years or 18% of Americas' history was spent on " hot" war.

From 1945 to 1992, Americans' spent 47 years (19%) of our American history on "cold" war.

Since 1992, for the past six years, America has survived without war (give or take a few months of relapse).

Out of 244 years, 91 years, or 37% of Americas' time was spent on, and recovering from, the traumatization of war.

The toughest test question of all, was given to us by J.F.K., in 1963, "What did you do for your country?

According to Dr. James Dobson's book, Love Must be Tough, "safe people are productive people." An earnest labor market will capitalize on this. Remember that pledge we all recited, "Liberty and justice for all?"❐

JUDGEMENT DAY

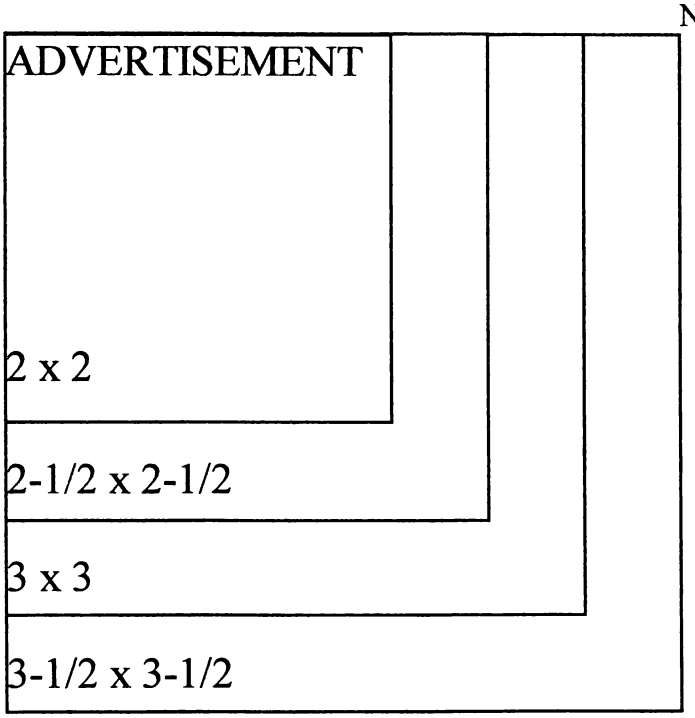
# WANT TO ADVERTISE FOR FREE??

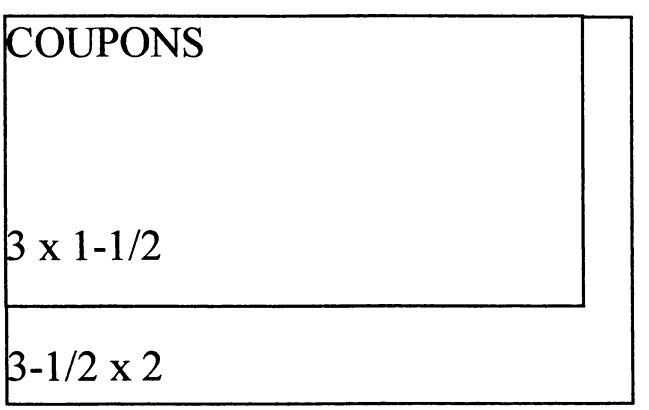
**This is the place!!**

The MSC Monitor is offering free advertisement to businesses in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

This is an effort to see just how much turn around the MSC Monitor will bring in the Valley through advertisement support. All businesses that advertise in the MSC Monitor will be asked to fill out a survey during the month of December.

Name of Business:_____
Address of Business:_____ City:_____ Zip Code:_____
Contact Person:_____ Phone:_____ email:_____
Best day and time for contact:_____
Number of issues you want to run:_____
or From_____ To_____




Paste or tape your advertisement or coupon within the appropriate box and deliver to The MSC Monitor at P.O. Box 2889, Palmer, Alaska 99645 or place in the Blue Monitor Drop Box located in the Mat-Su College Cafeteria, or if you have access send email graphic to guildencratz@hotmail.com (include Business name, address, contact person, phone number and/or email type and size).

**Note:** *All advertisements should be done in black/white or grey scale to ensure clarity.*
*The Monitor reserves the right to refuse advertising service on basis of content and appeal to college students.*

You will be contact about your advertisement within 5 business days from the day the Monitor Receives the application